

The Baptist Record

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How much TV news is enough?

By Jerry B. Pierce

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — It was 1980 and Americans were trying to figure out who shot J.R. on the CBS nighttime soap "Dallas."

Fourteen years later, Americans seem just as curious. And the television industry seems just as happy to oblige them, this time with news instead of soaps.

With the enormous amount of news coverage available, Will Norton, former University of Mississippi Journalism Department chairman, and now dean of the college of journalism at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said Christians who want to be informed must do so without wasting time on sensational or useless news programming.

Norton, who attends Lincoln's First Evangelical Free Church, said he watches little television news because it is ridden with what he calls "pseudo events."

"What they're doing is not real news," Norton said. "They're creating news."

American Christians, Norton said, need to educate themselves about events affecting believers in other countries while making wise choices about how they stay informed and how much time they spend doing it.

Norton said those choices are different for everyone.

"We have such a short time on this earth," Norton said. "You have to decide how much of anything you're going to watch."

T.W. Hunt, a prayer specialist at the Baptist Sunday School Board, said staying informed is important because it shows Christians for what and for whom they should pray.

"I think it is important to pray

about national and international events," Hunt said. "We ought to pray for national and international leaders."

"The whole issue would be a problem of saturation," he said. "There ought to be a cutoff point for the Christian."

In the process of staying informed, Hunt said Christians must guard against becoming discouraged, which could dampen their praying zeal.

If the topic of quest is suitable or relevant, Hunt said he watches CNN's "Crossfire" or "Larry King Live." He said he watches about an hour of network and local news and avoids sensational programming altogether.

"I choose my topics carefully," Hunt said.

Robyn Jones, a member of Metropolitan Church, Oklahoma City, and general manager of KQCV-AM, a Christian radio station that devotes 40% of its programming to public affairs, said she believes the secular media consistently distorts the news.

"It's all so, basically, biased," Jones said. However, she warned against retreating from secular news coverage.

Hal Wingo, an assistant manager editor at People magazine and member of Greenwich (Conn.) Church, said Christians who avoid secular news coverage might be diminishing their ability to influence their culture.

"I'm not sure about self-censoring because of a Christian's convictions, unless the programming is a continual affront to their faith," Wingo said.

Christians must be discerning about what they consume yet be

able to react thoughtfully to public debate, he said.

"I guess my great fear is that Christians will be tuning out and turning off just because of a fear of being corrupted."

The Bible, Wingo said, gives no evidence that early believers shielded themselves to the point they were ignorant of their culture.

Added KQCV's Jones, "To have a Christian world view, you have to be aware of what's going on."

The apostle Paul and his contemporaries were aware of political and social concerns, Jones said. Paul was able to convincingly advocate Christ before the leading thinkers of his day, she said.

Despite her negative appraisal of the news media, Jones recommends Christians read at least one secular news magazine and also take advantage of public affairs programming on Christian radio.

Greeley Kyle, an investigative reporter with NBC television affiliate WMC in Memphis, and a member of Bellevue Church, agreed with Jones that secular news coverage is biased, TV news particularly.

"The medium is much more openly and outwardly anti-Christian" than it used to be, Kyle said.

Kyle said Christian radio might be one of the best news sources because it often gives depth to stories either ignored or barely reported on by non-Christian journalists.

"We know it's a bad world," Kyle said. "But we also know what we can do about it. Our God is awesome. He's there to protect us and sustain us. We're not powerless."

Pierce is a Southern Baptist and associate editor, the SOUTH OKLAHOMA CITY LEADER.



VOLUMINOUS PRAYER SUPPORT — Prayer became serious business for three months last fall for the 14 Royal Ambassadors and Girls in Action at Oakton Baptist Church in Chantilly, Va. Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin (center) and two RAs seem to be drowning in the links of a 300-foot prayer chain the youngsters constructed, as they and the church's minister of education, Scott Terry (right), try to get a handle on it. The youngsters and their leaders presented the chain to Rankin at the FMB in March. It contains the names of nearly 4,000 missionaries and their fields of service written on construction paper links. The youngsters' excitement was contagious for the 95-member congregation, which displayed the chain as its focal point for foreign missions prayer before Christmas. The church also sponsored its first mission trip in January, sending five members to Honduras on a church construction team. The prayer chain project was spearheaded by Terry, who, along with his wife Shirin, is pursuing missionary appointment. (FMB photo by Don Rutledge)

Round trip to heaven?

The best-selling book about one woman's life-after-death experience should be approached with caution by Christians, according to a report in the March 7 edition of *Christianity Today* (CT) magazine. *Embraced by the Light*, by ex-hypnotherapist Betty Eadie, has been on the bestseller list of the New York Times for more than 40 weeks — five weeks at number one.

Eadie, 51, claims she died during surgery in 1973 but returned five hours later with the secrets of heaven revealed to her by Jesus himself. Among the secrets, she says, are that everyone lived a pre-earth existence to help God create the planet, and that Eve made a "conscious decision" about the forbidden fruit in the garden to bring about "conditions necessary for her progression." The magazine quotes Dick Baer of the Ex-Mormons and Christians Alliance as saying the book denigrates Christianity and promotes "mainline Mormon doctrines." CT reports sales have topped one million with a paperback edition and a sequel in the works.

Iraq okays Bible printing

The government of Iraq apparently intends to continue relaxing some religious restrictions long imposed in the militant Moslem country — a move that began shortly after the end of the Persian Gulf War.

Permission has been granted for the first time to publish Christian literature inside the country, and evangelical groups are cranking up their printing presses to reduce dependence on imported copies of scripture.

More than 5,000 Arab Bibles and Christian children's books have already been printed, and the agreement with the government specifies that the publishing can be expanded to a ceiling of 100,000 Bibles.

Missionary workers estimate that 500,000 complete Bibles, New Testaments, or scriptural portions have been distributed in Iraq since the war.

In addition, Christian churches have been allowed to conduct worship services, and the "Jesus" film has been broadcast twice over government-controlled national television.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Mississippi Baptist Convention President Charles Pickering of Laurel appoints a study committee to consider a proposed state pastors' conference each year prior to the start of the annual meeting of the convention in Jackson.

20 years ago

Baptist churches in the Delta begin an effort to reach Hispanics when Merigold Church, Merigold, donates a piano to the Mexican Mission at Shelby and Boyle Church, Boyle, raises funds to purchase Spanish hymnbooks for the mission.

50 years ago

Baptists join a letter-writing campaign after Collier magazine says New York Catholic Archbishop Francis Spellman is wartime Vicar of the Armed Forces of the U.S. "Our vicar is Jesus Christ," writes the editor of *The Baptist Record*.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Prisons, poverty, and
purse strings

Most Americans seem unaffected by the conditions of various segments of our population. Yet the cost to the victims, the church, and society is mounting.

The Prison Evangelism Outreach, Inc., Ocean Springs, directed by Sid Taylor, in its mail-out mentions a new study report. The United States now has the highest incarceration rate in the world. For every 100,000 people, the USA imprisons 426.

South Africa imprisons 333 and the old Soviet Union, 286. The USA number has doubled since 1980. It costs \$20,000 per year to keep a person in jail and the recidivism rate is 80%. This means 8 of 10 people who are incarcerated once, go back to prison soon after being released.

Inmates who have a genuine Christian experience while in prison have a recidivism rate of only 15% or less. Thank God for

the Sid Taylors, Chuck Colsons, and Charlie Joneses who have prison ministries.

Bread For The World says an estimated 12 million children in the USA are hungry (Center on Hunger, Tufts University-1993). America's child poverty rate is more than double that of any other industrialized nation, and ranks 21st in infant mortality rate (UNICEF-1993). Bread for the World, Southern Baptists, and a dozen other organizations are seeking to alleviate world hunger.

The Census Bureau of the U.S. Commerce Department declares that 185 of the nations' 81 million year-round, full-time workers earn less than \$13,091 per year... a whopping 50% increase over the 12% who had low earnings in 1979.

The latest rumor of a Gulf Coast casino which has a slot machine that will take food stamps

is absolutely not so. However, there are many machines willing to take all or any part of that \$13,091 from the poor.

The lack of education is crippling. The percentage of full-time workers with low earnings was 32% for those without high school diplomas and 6% for those with college degrees.

Somewhere along life's pilgrimage we adopt our philosophy about all of this and proceed to pass it on to our children. At times our love for hungry children in the Orient is strong, but we scarcely lift a finger for those down the street. We cry for the hungry child and do little for the unborn child. We pay the \$20,000 to keep one in jail, but refuse to vote a bond issue to educate another. "Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker: and he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished" (Prov. 17:5).

Open persecution coming
in Russia, Christian warns

By Marty Croll

WASHINGTON (BP) — Svetlyana Nevrova was laid to rest Jan. 15.

A 19-year-old evangelical who loved to sing in her church choir, she had been stabbed 60 times four days earlier and left for dead in a ditch in Ukraine.

Larissa Detyura, a 20-year-old Baptist woman, was murdered Jan. 7 in Maykop, Russia. She was kidnapped and tortured, then brought home and tossed into her yard, where she stopped breathing. Afterwards, anonymous death threats appeared in her parents' mailbox.

A Russian evangelical leader brought these stories and others to Capitol Hill in late March as evidence that the window of religious freedom in the former Soviet region already is slamming shut.

The evangelical, Boris Perchatkin, is trying to alert the West that the republics of the region are fast becoming strongholds of religious persecution — this time against Protestants.

The West first got wind of this through a bill introduced in the former Russian legislature that would have restricted non-Orthodox activity. The bill failed when Yeltsin dismissed Parliament last year.

"One and a half years ago I

myself didn't believe this was going on," said Perchatkin. "But as I am working more and more on it, this horrible picture is forming. We have a very short time."

Who better than a dissident believer to recognize the bloody slashes of religious persecution when he sees them?

In Washington he met with U.S. congressmen, State Department officials, and advisers to President Clinton. He told them the former Soviet region — widely viewed as relatively free despite its growing pains — is actually a time bomb of persecution that, when it explodes, will vent unimaginable horror.

He warns that after the next Russian presidential elections in 1996 — if not earlier — widespread, open persecution of Protestants will become the rule in Russia. He predicts a systematic "cleansing" of Protestants, similar to that experienced by all faiths under Josef Stalin, as nationalists tout the Orthodox and Muslim religions as "ours."

Perchatkin's grandfather was a Baptist pastor when Stalin came to power. "Over the course of five years, his community was physically destroyed," Perchatkin said. "Between 1928 and 1933 nine peo-

ple were shot, including my grandfather. Three people survived. The rest were sent to prisons and labor camps, or just disappeared."

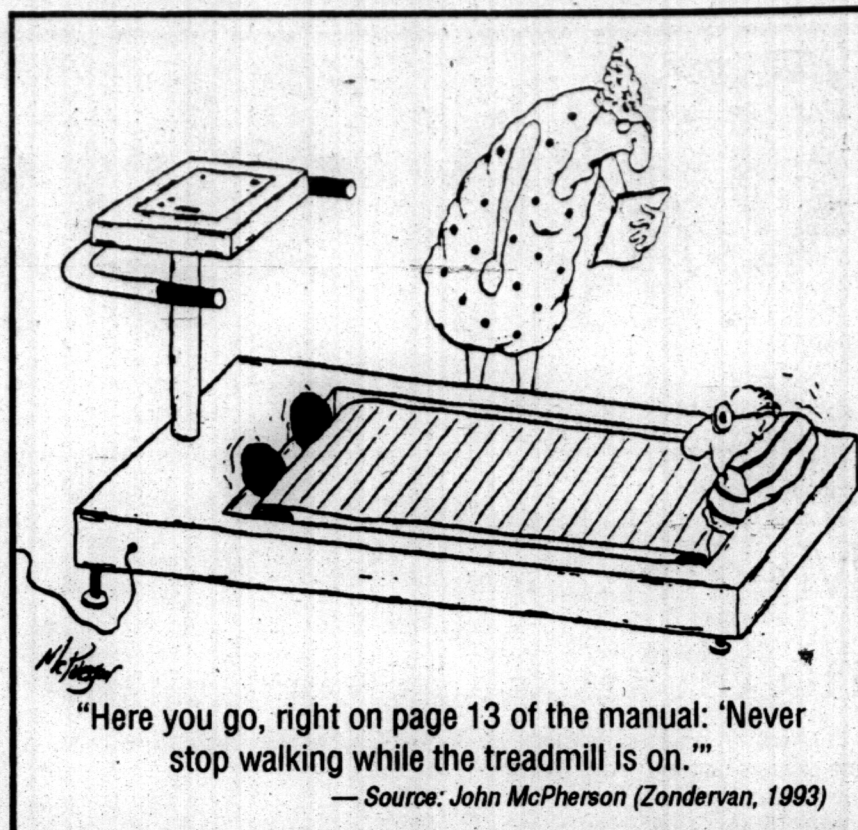
But extremist Muslims are only part of the danger. An alarming alliance was forged in February when the Russian army opened its arms to a military organization, about 1 million strong, with historical roots in the Cossack people. It has declared its allegiance to Russian Orthodoxy — and war against Protestants.

Croll writes for FMB.

"Christy" premier praised by local pastor

TOWNSEND, Tenn. (BP) — The Easter night premier of the movie "Christy" was of more than just casual interest for several Baptists.

Jay T. Rockwell, a deacon and Sunday School teacher at Calvary Church in Kingsport, Tenn., was the director of stunts, special effects, and animals for the movie which is based on the late Catherine Marshall's best-selling inspirational novel about a young girl who, in 1919, left her home in the city to teach at a mission school in the remote mountains of east Tennessee.



"Here you go, right on page 13 of the manual: 'Never stop walking while the treadmill is on.'"

— Source: John McPherson (Zondervan, 1993)

THE FRAGMENTS

Have a nice day

Monday made little pretense of being a nice day. The mail was about half and half — half wanted to hang the editor, and half said hanging was too good for him... or so it seemed.

Tuesday wasn't a lot better. We proofread the paper — other than a picture with the wrong name under it and a few typos, it was okay.

Wednesday I discovered the cost of mailing *The Baptist Record* could rise as much as 20% over the next few years. A Pastor's Conference sent a letter of censure for our using more than one news service. An association sent word I was *persona non grata*, but I don't think they meant it... did you? I read where a favorite theologian, Dale Moody, decades ago when he joined the faculty of Southern Seminary in Louisville, signed the Principles of Abstract with a footnote that he could not accept the section on the "Perseverance of

the Saints." Mercifully, Wednesday came to a halt, even if the business meeting at church went a bit overtime.

Thursday people would be receiving the paper. We sent an edition of the church page to the wrong church... our printer bailed us out. More letters came: "Don't send no more papers to my house, if have pictures of mixed couples in it;" "You are certainly privileged to be wrong on anything you want to be wrong about;" and "Guy, you grieve me, but have a nice day." Moreover, I learned via post card "the 666 man and beast is tied to the 66-books.... If you can guess what the third or lost 6 is, I will send you the 666 tape."

Sunday it was all made okay by a scribbled note from a 7-year-old: "I like you, thank you for taking your time preaching. I love you." The sun was shining again and all was right with the world. — GH

The movie was filmed about a quarter-mile from Bethel Church in Townsend, Tenn., and used several local residents as actors, including Curtis Franklin, son of Bethel pastor Curt Franklin.

Franklin and Rockwell were contacted by Tennessee Baptists' Baptist and Reflector newjournal after the premier for their reactions.

"I was very impressed with the family atmosphere and the importance of the Lord" portrayed in the movie, said Franklin, whose church was attended by the movie's producer, Ken Wales, during the local filming.

Rockwell, too, was pleased with the outcome. He directed the special effects and doubled for actors on stunts. His wife Becky was a double on stunts for actress Tyne Daly.

Rockwell, who turned down a similar job with a show that would have meant more money, said the movie's message was one reason he took the job. He said the movie and subsequent TV episodes became a "project for the Lord."

Six one-hour episodes of "Christy" are scheduled to be aired on Thursday nights. Check local listings.

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Editor.....Guy Henderson
Associate Editor.....William H. Perkins Jr.
Advertising/News writer.....Teresa Dickens
Editorial Associate.....Florence Larrimore
Circulation Manager.....Renee Walley
Bookkeeper.....Betty Anne Bailey
Layout/News writer.....Shannon T. Simpson
Editor Emeritus.....Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Deborah Brunt, Corinth; David Raddin, Yazoo City; Robert Self, Brookhaven; Charles Dunagin, Summit; Horace Kerr, Brandon; Grady Collins, Philadelphia; Teresa Dickens, secretary.
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Mississippi and missions

The Foreign Mission Board has reported that Mississippi had the largest increase in Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions gifts of any state convention (See Letters to the Editor, page 7). Marjean Patterson, state WMU executive director, says \$5,275,388 (thus far) has been given through the offering.

This is the third consecutive year Mississippi has exceeded \$5 million. This year's offering is already \$154,002 more than the former record set in 1991-92, not counting those funds which will be channeled through the Baptist Building in the remainder of April and May.

"My observation... is that Mississippi Baptists actively seek to promote the work of the Lord... through prayer and missions education," said Patterson.

Medical plan rates see no change at midyear

DALLAS (BP) — Rates will not change at midyear for any of the Annuity Board's medical plans in the Personal Security Program and Seminarian Security Program. These programs offer coverage for ministers, church employees, and seminary students.

Some participants who move to a different ZIP code area could see a rate change soon after the move. Participants who have a birthday in 1994 that puts them in a higher age bracket will see a rate change on Jan. 1, 1995.

Rates in the plans have not changed in almost two years. The Annuity Board last raised rates July 1, 1992. Since that increase, medical trends used by insurance companies have been as high as 22%, according to Joel Mathis, senior vice president for insurance administration at the Annuity Board.

Current trends are rising at about 16% to 19% a year, he said. Many medical insurers have increased rates accordingly, Mathis said.

This is the longest period between rate changes in the personal and seminarian medical plans since a three-year span in 1985, 1986, and 1987.

Mathis credited good claims experience, plan design, and managed care as factors in keeping rates down.

Mathis also pointed out that the Annuity Board has never canceled any participant's coverage for high or frequent claims. "We're committed to our participants," he said. "We've worked hard to keep the plans viable and competitive, both in rates and benefits. The faithfulness of our participants has contributed to that."

Further, another flexibility fea-

ture of these programs is portability, Mathis said. "Your coverage can go with you to any Southern Baptist church God calls you to serve," he said.

Not only has the Annuity Board kept rates down, Mathis said, but some benefits in the personal and seminarian comprehensive medical plans increased on Jan. 1, 1994:

- The individual deductible was reduced from \$500 to \$400.

- Family total deductible was reduced from \$1,000 to \$800.

- Co-payment maximum was reduced from \$5,000 to \$4,000 for individuals and from \$10,000 to \$8,000 for a family.

- Maternity claims are considered as any other covered expense — the caps were removed.

Benefits also increased on Jan. 1, 1994, for participants who choose to use services of providers in the plans' preferred provider network:

- The individual deductible is reduced from \$250 to \$200.

- Family total deductible is reduced from \$500 to \$400.

- Co-payment maximum is reduced from \$2,500 to \$2,000 for individuals and from \$5,000 to \$4,000 for a family.

The Personal Security Program for ministers and church employees includes comprehensive medical; two catastrophic plans; PruCare Health Maintenance Organization; term life, including optional spouse and child coverage; accidental death and dismemberment; personal accident; and long-term disability coverage.

The Seminarian Security Program includes comprehensive medical, major medical, PruCare HMO, term life, accidental death and dismemberment, and personal accident coverage.

Mississippi Baptists give almost \$2 million in March

Mississippi Baptists gave a total of \$1,854,963 in March through the Cooperative Program, the unified, voluntary system of giving for state and world missions, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which distributes the funds.

The March amount is \$121,851 more than that given in March of 1993.

The 1994 amount for the first three months of the year totals \$5,733,143, which is \$125,231 (or 2.23%) more than that given in the first quarter of 1993.

Giving in 1994 is \$120,143 (or 2.14%) more than the pro rata amount, which is found by taking the total 1994 budget of \$22,452,000, dividing by 12 months, and multiplying by the number of months elapsed.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

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Mississippi family safe ...

Missionaries are evacuated from Rwanda and Burundi

By Don Martin

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — Ethnic and political killings in Rwanda have forced Southern Baptist missionaries there to join an overland evacuation being arranged by the U.S. Embassy in Rwanda's capital, Kigali.

The deaths of the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi in an apparent attack on their plane April 7 touched off a spree of ethnic killings and attacks by army and police forces in Kigali. The violence has claimed the lives of numerous citizens.

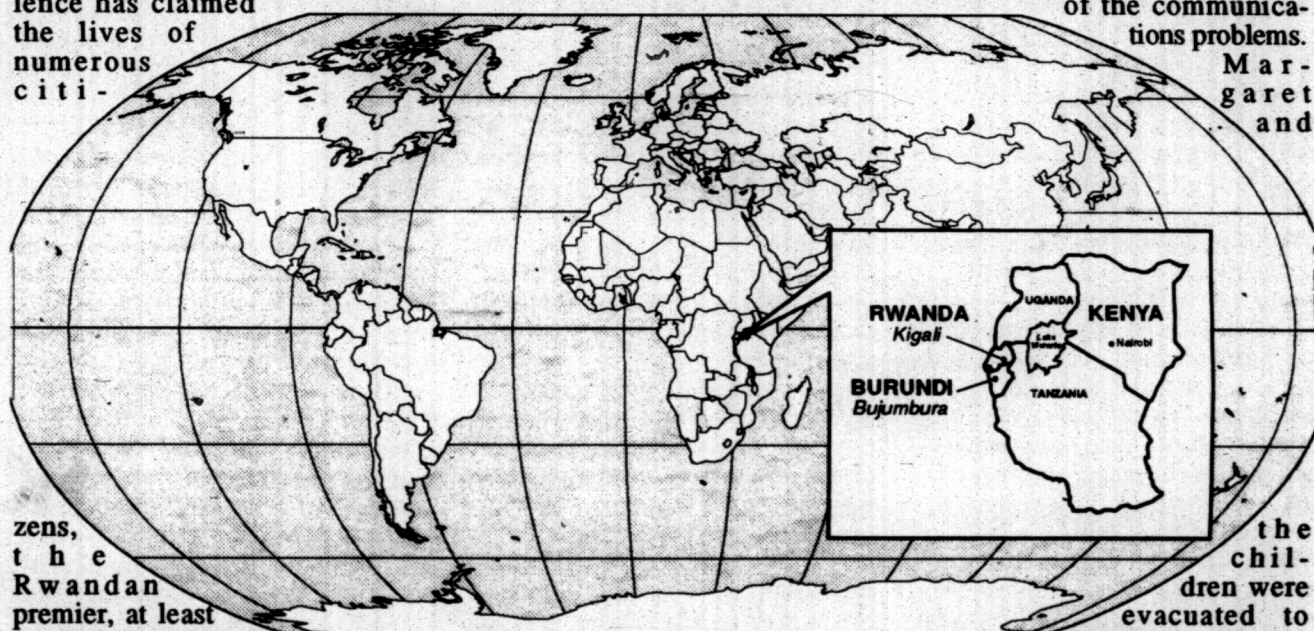
Sandi Sivage, from Midland and Wheeler, Texas, respectively; Martha Colwell from Athens, Ga.; David and Janet Hooten, both from Knoxville, Tenn.; Katrina Knox, from Columbia, Tenn.; Stan and Marlene Lee, both from Greenville, S.C.; Larry and Dianne Randolph, from Oakman, Ala., and Dallas, respectively; and journeyman Marty Felts from Tyler, Texas.

The lone Mississippi mission-

University and Southwestern Seminary graduate, dropped out of sight in the early hours of the coup and could not be located by the Foreign Mission Board when virtually all forms of communication in and out of Burundi were shut down.

McCall surfaced Oct. 23 at a guest house in Bujumbura, where he was staying when the fighting broke out. He couldn't get in touch with his family, however, because of the communications problems.

Margaret and



zens, the Rwandan premier, at least 11 Belgian peace-keeping soldiers, and 19 or more Catholic nuns and priests, according to news reports.

Fighting closed the airport in Kigali, forcing the U.S. Embassy to arrange an overland evacuation, which was to begin within 48 hours, mission administrators in Nairobi, Kenya, said April 8.

"Right now our missionaries are staying in their homes and not going out," an administrator said. "They are all safe, but plan to leave as soon as the embassy can arrange safe passage for the convoy."

Eleven Southern Baptist mission workers — 10 career missionaries and one journeyman — were in Rwanda when the fighting broke out.

The embassy convoy was expected to drive first to Burundi's capital, Bujumbura, where the situation has remained calm. However, an April 8 travel advisory from the U.S. State Department warned Americans not to travel to Burundi. The mission workers may travel on to Nairobi, where temporary housing has been arranged.

Southern Baptist missionaries in Rwanda include Vernon and

ary family in the two countries is agricultural evangelist Dennis McCall, 39, of Vicksburg; his wife, Margaret; and their three children, who are stationed in the small Burundi town of Rutana, reported Foreign Mission Board spokesman Erich Bridges.

The McCalls joined the caravan to Nairobi and plan to attend a previously-scheduled annual mission meeting there, Bridges said.

The McCall family's assignment to Burundi certainly hasn't been boring.

Dennis was separated for a week from his wife and children in the aftermath of an Oct. 21, 1993, military overthrow of the civilian national government in that country. He was in the capital city of Bujumbura when the coup started — two and a half hours from Rutana.

McCall, a Mississippi State

by U.S. Embassy helicopter, where they were reunited with Dennis. The family decided to take an already-planned vacation to Kenya while the coup lost steam and order was restored.

Dennis' father, John McCall, serves as a Bible instructor and director of church relations at Mississippi College in Clinton. The elder McCall was also pastor of First Church, Vicksburg, for 30 years.

In its most recent response to the refugee situation, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board released \$54,650 in hunger funds April 7 to help feed 4,000 malnourished refugees in two Rwandan camps.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees has turned to Southern Baptist missionaries to supply additional food for the severely malnourished. Since 1993, the Foreign Mission Board has channeled more than \$380,000 in relief funds to aid Rwandan and Burundian refugees and some others in rural areas.

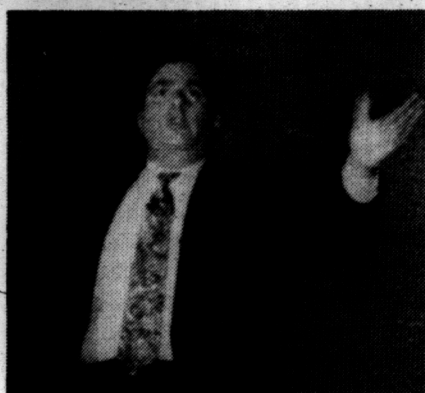
Martin writes for FMB. William H. Perkins Jr. also contributed to this story.



McCall



Robert DeMoss Jr. (right) speaks to a crowd of 2,100 at the Mississippi Trade Mart in Jackson. Goal of the seminar was to expose ungodly messages flooding teens daily from advertisements, music, television, and movies. DeMoss also conducted a seminar in Tupelo, at the invitation of American Family Radio and the American Family Association. At the seminar's close, attendants joined hands to pray (top photo) for American children.



AFA sponsors youth culture specialist

By Shannon T. Simpson

Bob DeMoss, youth culture specialist for Focus on the Family, was in Jackson and Tupelo recently to present his multimedia seminar, "A Generation at Risk," to parents and concerned Christians.

Sponsored by the American Family Association and American Family Radio of Tupelo, the seminar painted a sobering picture of the flood of ungodly values on American teens. Television, rock music, even advertisements undermine Christian values and set up warped standards for youths, DeMoss said.

The goal of his presentation, along with available books, videos, and periodicals on the subject of youth entertainment, was to "teach young people to be critical thinkers rather than passive media consumers," he said.

DeMoss delivered a sampling of harmful messages from various media. Excerpts from songs with satanic or blatantly violent lyrics, ads full of sexual imagery, and R-rated "slasher" movies gave attendants "a slice of what our kids are soaked in every day," according to DeMoss.

"I think a problem is that Christians specifically and Americans generally are truly unaware of the contents of what their children are listening to, watching, and reading," said Marvin Sanders, station manager for WAFR, Tupelo. "I think 'A Generation at Risk' opened parents' eyes.... It's designed as a wake-up call. Parents too easily assume the quality of what's happening today in entertainment is no different than Elvis shaking his pelvis or the Beatles wearing their hair long and singing rebellious lyrics.

"Today's entertainment is qualitatively, quantitatively, and spiritually different. Never in my lifetime has there been such an

obvious, diabolical, anti-Christian mindset," Sanders said.

After presenting the disturbing facts about media and culture, DeMoss offered suggestions for counteracting harmful influences on teens. Among them were:

- learn to discern (pray for discernment, and teach it to your child);
- establish a family standard (to which everyone adheres);
- go "nose-to-nose" with your child, affirming his value as an individual;
- be a good listener;
- rid your home of "loser" magazines, videos, and music;
- give your child God's Word;
- limit TV consumption;
- interact with the television and your child;
- hunt for Christian alternatives;
- expose lies (like materialism, hedonism, secularism) in advertising;
- take a stand.

DeMoss stressed the importance of parents' involvement not only in their homes, but their communities. He encouraged parents to write broadcast companies, record and movie producers, and Federal Communications Commission officials to express their concerns.

"With our silence, we give our assent," DeMoss said. "Revival begins in the home.... Your family's best defense is the spiritual offense of prayer."

Attendance at the Jackson seminar was around 2,100; in Tupelo, about 1,300 attended.

Video and book versions of DeMoss' seminar under the title "Learn to Discern" are available at Baptist Book Store, Jackson telephone (601) 977-9676; or from Focus on the Family, 1-800-661-9800.

Sanctions mean tough choices for Baptists in troubled Haiti

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — "Things change but nothing changes." Haitians often use that proverb to describe life in their island nation.

"Haiti's whole history has been a constant changeover (of leaders for) almost 200 years. The government changes, but that doesn't necessarily change anything else," said Peggy Rutledge, a Southern Baptist missionary in Haiti, during a recent interview while in Richmond, Va.

"You still have the extremely well off and the extremely poor. If there's a change in government, that may adjust a little bit for individuals, but the whole structure itself doesn't change."

Mrs. Rutledge and her husband, Mark, have seen plenty of political changes in Haiti during seven years as agricultural missionaries in the western hemisphere's poorest country.

The latest turmoil surrounds ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, overthrown in a September 1991 coup by the Haitian military. Since then the United Nations and the Organization of American States have imposed economic sanctions to pressure the ruling military junta to restore Aristide to power. Despite sanctions, Haiti's military still controls the nation. Aristide, in exile in Venezuela, recently terminated an immigration agreement allowing the U.S. Coast Guard to repatriate Haitian boat people. His action was in response to reports of increasing human rights abuses against Aristide supporters in Haiti.

Meanwhile, the Clinton administration continues to shift its Haitian policy while still supporting restoration of democracy in Haiti.

But one thing remains a constant in Haiti these days: the poor are getting poorer.

Last October the United Nations reinstated a fuel embargo

that has pushed Haitian gasoline prices to nearly \$10 a gallon. Food prices have nearly doubled. It costs a Haitian at least a week's wages to buy a gallon of cooking oil.

"People are not sure what to expect; that's been one of the greatest problems," said Mark Rutledge. "They cannot live the same way they used to live and expect things to work out anymore."

The Rutledges, from Glendale, Calif., and Murfreesboro, Tenn., respectively, planned to return to Haiti April 8 after a brief vacation in Florida and Virginia. They're the only Southern Baptist career missionaries now living in Haiti, although one International Service Corps couple and a journeyman continue to work there. New missionaries Jim and Grace Ziler, of Avilla and New Haven, Mo., respectively, are expected to arrive in July.

In Haiti's middle plateau area, the Rutledges operate an agricultural ministry providing veterinary assistance and helping farmers increase their yield.

In the countryside where the missionaries live, some Haitian farmers — including Baptists — now must choose whether to feed their children or send them to school. Since Haitians consider education a high priority, "most often parents will opt for (their children) to go to school even if they don't eat," said Mrs. Rutledge.

The Rutledges are urging rural Haitians to consider other options, like home schooling if they can't afford school tuition, books, and uniforms. They also suggest farmers break their tradition of selling all their harvest and then buying food later as they need it. Families usually do that to pay for their children's education, according to the Rutledges.

They're also trying to help Haitians see "this is a time when you have to think a lot about how

you use your resources," added her husband. "They can destroy themselves and their families if they make wrong decisions, because they may run out of food and other things."

Meanwhile, the Rutledges have to weigh even more carefully their own use of resources.

Despite the damage done by the embargo, "it's had a lot of positive effects for the kingdom of God," Rutledge said.

Late last year, for example, the Rutledges temporarily closed a Baptist well-drilling project because of soaring fuel costs and difficulty getting mechanical parts. Putting the project on hold meant laying off Haitian workers and shifting the assignment of Ed and Mary Brentham, International Service Corps volunteers from Belton, Texas.

Instead of drilling wells during the past few months, Brentham, 68, has been preaching in evangelistic campaigns in Baptist churches throughout Haiti. These were originally to have been led by Baptist evangelists from the United States — a plan thwarted by unrest in Haiti.

Each week-long campaign has resulted in an average of 30 new Christians, according to Rutledge. One Baptist congregation recently saw 163 Haitians accept Christ as Savior during services led by Brentham. Church members got up daily at 4 a.m. to pray for the campaign.

Fuel for Brentham's travels costs plenty, but Baptists in Haiti consider his work a top priority.

"We're trying to make as many resources available as possible so the evangelistic work will continue no matter what," said Mrs. Rutledge.

"As people's hearts change, as they come to know the Lord, that's when we feel the country will start changing."

(See related photo on page 10.)

Texas, Alabama Baptists lead first MasterLife conferences in Russia

By Ken Camp

DALLAS (BP) — Four Southern Baptists from Texas and Alabama recently helped lead the first MasterLife discipleship workshops in the former Soviet Union.

Carl Smith, pastor of First Church in Center, Texas, and his wife Sally were part of an international Baptist team assembled by the Foreign Mission Board. The volunteers trained about 80 pastors and denominational leaders from the Ukraine and Russia.

The Smiths — joined by Cleve Sipes, Baptist Student Union director at Auburn University, and his wife Nelda — and four Baptists from Great Britain led the workshops March 14-18 in Lugansk and March 24-26 in Moscow.

The MasterLife discipleship

curriculum was translated into Russian under the supervision of Bill Wagner, a Germany-based Foreign Mission Board representative for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa.

The Smiths were invited to participate in the workshops because of their church's ongoing ministry in Lugansk through the Texas Baptist Men missions organization.

About two years ago, the Center church bought a \$10,000 X-ray machine for a Lugansk hospital, and two volunteers from Center, Lee Roy and Willie Gendke, continue to work in the Ukraine.

The Moscow MasterLife workshop was held in conjunction with a church planting conference, and it attracted a cross-section of lead-

ers from throughout the Russian Baptist union, Smith said.

"I know of eight people from Siberia who had to make a three-day trip by train to be there," he said.

Interpreters for the English-speaking Baptist conference leaders included Russian university students and instructors, several of whom were not Christians.

"When we started, one girl told me, 'I will interpret for you, but I will not do the exercises because I am not a believer,'" Smith recalled.

"By the end of the week, she told me, 'I have heard so much about prayers being answered. Now I believe God is real.'"

Camp is PR director, Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Draper rules out consideration for SWBTS presidency

NASHVILLE (BP) — Putting rumors to rest that he would be a candidate for the presidency of Southwestern Seminary, Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. told BSSB employees April 5 he "will not allow my name to be considered."

"At a time when I am challenging employees of the Baptist Sunday School Board to our greatest days of min-

istry to churches and individuals, I want to state my firm conviction that God led me here to serve as your president. I believe it is his will for me to remain at this position as we pursue the challenge that he has given to us," Draper said in a prepared statement during a chapel service.

The presidency of Southern Baptists' largest seminary in Fort Worth, came open March 9 when trustees fired Russell H. Dilday Jr. A presidential search committee

has been named. Draper said he was sending a copy of his statement to search committee chairman Miles Seaborn, a Fort Worth pastor.

Draper acknowledged he had "been asked to allow a group of individuals to present my name to

"I believe it is his will for me to remain at this position as we pursue the challenge that he has given to us."

— James T. Draper Jr.

with the seminary or inquiring if I would be interested in being considered for the presidency."

The Baptist Sunday School Board is the best agency to build bridges, Draper said, because it has the "most comprehensive assignment" from the Southern Baptist Convention. Through its materials and ministries, the BSSB reaches more than 90% of Southern Baptist churches every week. He also praised the quality and dedication of BSSB employees.

Acteens asked to share shoes, bears for missions

By Susan Doyle

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Girls attending the National Acteens Convention (NAC) in Birmingham June 21-24 are asked to bring a pair of shoes or a stuffed bear to share in a ministry project.

Acteens is the missions organization for girls in grades seven through 12 sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union. NAC is held once every five years for Acteens members who have completed the seventh grade and their leaders.

The bears and the shoes will be given to Southern Baptist home missionaries to use in their ministries across the country.

Carolyn McClendon, a Southern Baptist home missionary and director of the Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans, will be one of the recipients of bears and shoes.

The bears also will be special possessions for the children, McClendon said. Most of the children who will receive the bears come from families that can't

afford some of the basics.

"Many of the families are on welfare, food stamps, things like that," she said. "When they have to buy even school supplies, it usually means something else has to go — rent, utilities, food. We'll be helping to lessen those kinds of financial tightness."

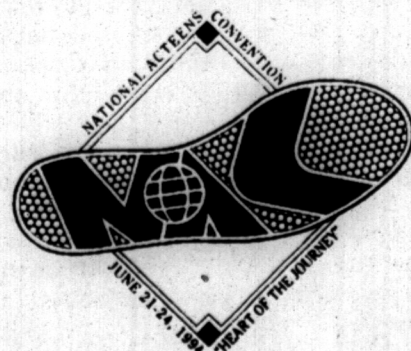
Other missionaries who will receive bears and shoes to use in their work include: Andrew Begaye, Gallup, N.M.; Dorcas Camacho, Houston, Texas; Valerie Carter, Richmond, Va.; Ken Goode, Albuquerque, N.M.; Tami Ruckman, Savannah, Ga.; Beverly Smothers, Johnson City, Tenn.; Joshua Vang, Decatur, Ga.; and Dottie Williamson, Clinton.

Acteens are asked to bring inexpensive canvas or school shoes. WMU officials organizing the project ask that brand-name sneakers, dress shoes, sandals, and bedroom shoes not be donated. The shoes should be placed in a ziplock, plastic bag, with the size written on the bag.

Bears should be new and 10-16 inches high. Acteens are asked to spend no more than \$15.95 per bear. Bears which have advertisements on them will not be accepted.

NAC registration opened Jan. 1. Acteens are encouraged to register in advance. Registration forms are available from state WMU offices.

Doyle writes for WMU.



Thursday, April 14, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Woman's College alumni meet in Jackson

The Mississippi Woman's College alumni association held their annual meeting recently at First Church, Jackson. The college existed in Hattiesburg from 1911 to 1955, when the name was changed to William Carey College with the admission of men. Association offi-

cers include Virginia Cooper Quarles, president; Jimmie Reese Morgan, secretary; Lillian Berry Moore, assistant secretary; Bea White Webb, social chair; and Gordy Hughes, coordinator. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Challenges to minister confidentiality on rise in U.S. courts, legislatures

By Paul G. Jones II

The right to confidentiality between ministers and their "flock" is a concept that has more legend than legal standing in many parts of the United States.

Many persons assume that discussions with a minister are protected by law, and many even believe that it is illegal for a minister to divulge anything said in a professional setting.

Just the opposite is true in many jurisdictions, where a minister is often required by statute to reveal certain types of information even when shared in confidence, and can be fined and jailed for failing to conform to the law.

The wall of secrecy that has historically surrounded the church counseling ministry is facing a threat. Recent court decisions and legislative actions in several states raise the possibility this protection is no longer taken seriously by the nation's legal system.

As the Wall Street Journal reported, "the historic change in direction appears to reflect both heightened public interest in punishing criminals and an erosion of the traditional deference accorded religious activity."

Courts around the country are taking a narrower view of the "clergy-penitent" privilege. Nine states (Ga., Ill., Ind., Md., Mich., Mo., Vt., Va., and Wyo.) already permit the privilege to be broken by clergy without permission of the counselee.

Many other states are finding reasons not to apply the privilege in particular instances, including Mississippi where statutes mandate that any minister who has "reasonable cause" to suspect a child is neglected or abused must report it to the state Department of Human Services.

A minister has no option in making the report, even if the

source is a statement made during counseling that, under other circumstances, might be considered confidential.

The Christian Action Commission (CAC) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention is aware of at least one state Baptist church that dismissed their pastor after he obeyed the law and reported a deacon suspected of sexually abusing his children.

Religious-rights groups and others concerned about government intrusion into the affairs of the church decry the trend.

Legal experts acknowledge that putting ministers on the witness stand or causing them to reject the sanctity of the counseling session undermines the confidentiality that worshippers expect

from pastor and staff.

The new legal trends affirm again the need for people to understand the true meaning of the doctrine of separation of church and state. A free church in a free society must not be rejected for political or social advantage.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution provides ample protection if applied fairly: "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;..."

For more information, contact CAC at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.

Jones is executive director, CAC.

Medical-dental fellowship meets May 6-7 in Jackson

The Mississippi Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship will hold its 11th annual meeting at First Church, Jackson, May 6-7.

A banquet Friday night will kick off the meeting at 6 p.m. in the church's fellowship hall west. Speaker for the banquet will be Lillia de Larios



de Larios

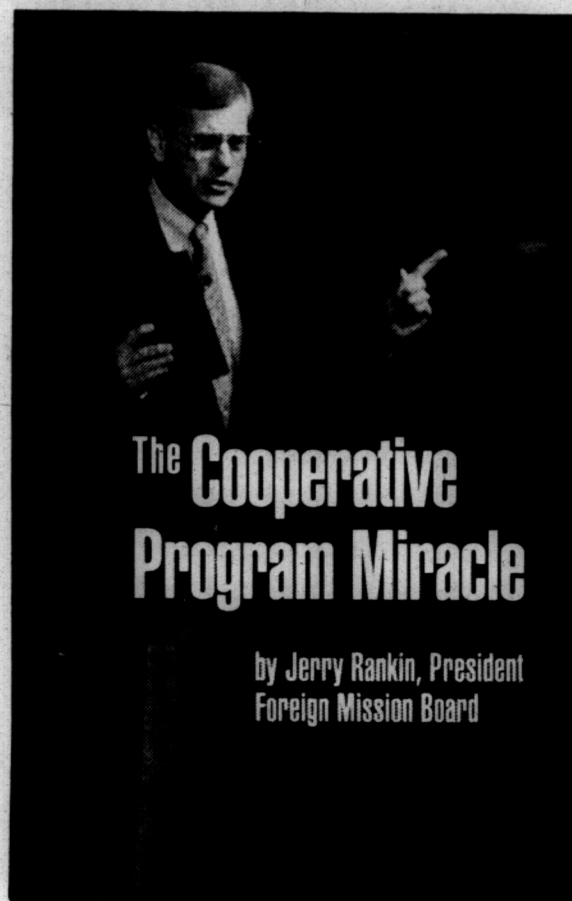
of Honduras, a practicing dentist and liaison to the Honduran government for coordinating critical care needs. The banquet's program will also include inspirational music, project reports, and testimonies.

Activities Saturday morning begin with a continental breakfast at 8 a.m. in the chapel of the Bap-

tist Building. Bill Hardy, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Partnership Missions coordinator, will present a program on partnership efforts. Fellowship members will be updated on Home and Foreign Mission board medical ministries and have a focused prayer time.

Advanced reservations for the banquet meal are required by April 29. To secure a reservation, send \$10 per person to the Brotherhood Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. For more information, call the Brotherhood Department at (601) 968-3800.

The Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship includes physicians, dentists, residents, optometrists, pharmacists, and nurses, and is open to anyone in these fields interested in mission work. Ben Nash of Clinton is current president.



The Cooperative Program Miracle

by Jerry Rankin, President
Foreign Mission Board

The Cooperative Program is a miracle of love.

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son. God so loved the world that he also gave Southern Baptists a burden for a lost world and the love of his Son to reach it. Cooperative Program gifts are a tangible expression of that love. Almost 4,000 Southern Baptist foreign missionaries in 131 countries are the incarnate expression of that love as they make Christ known to the nations.

The Cooperative Program is a miracle of cooperation.

Faithful church members, cooperating Baptist churches, concerned associations, committed state conventions, other Southern Baptist Convention entities, and the Foreign Mission Board together weave a web of cooperation encompassing the globe with evangelism that results in churches. This cooperative effort resulted in 251,901 baptisms overseas last year, an average of more than 4,800 baptized believers each week. A miracle indeed.

The Cooperative Program is a miracle of distribution.

The local church members vote on the percentage or dollar amount of funds that are forwarded for all Cooperative Program causes. The state convention messengers vote on the percentage distribution of funds for state convention and Southern Baptist Convention ministries. The SBC Executive Committee and the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention vote on the percentage of funds to each SBC entity, including the Foreign Mission Board.

The Cooperative Program is a miracle of grace.

No human instrumentality can claim credit for the success of the Cooperative Program. It is only by the grace of God that Southern Baptists have been blessed with the financial resources to reach our world. It is only by his grace and the leadership of the Holy Spirit that Southern Baptists have been led to contribute generously to missionary causes. It is a miracle of God's grace that a culturally diverse and geographically scattered people called Southern Baptists can be bound together by trust that transcends our differences and combines our resources for doing together what none of us can do alone.

The Cooperative Program is a miracle of growth.

Since its beginning in 1925, the Cooperative Program has grown beyond the fondest dreams of our Baptist forefathers who nurtured it through its infancy. Yet the last few years indicate a downward trend in SBC Cooperative Program gifts, while the potential for future growth is as great as the promises of God.

Our people, our churches, and our conventions must be challenged as never before to increase their gifts and their percentages for global evangelism during these final years of Bold Mission Thrust.

Another miracle is in the making. I challenge you and your church and your state convention to be a vital part of what God is doing in our world.

Missouri vote defeats casinos — for now

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP) — There are 1,261 reasons why Missourians defeated a riverboat gambling amendment April 5, and it was still only by the skin of their teeth. A margin of less than one-tenth of one percent fell in the favor of gambling opponents just 17 months after Missourians approved a statute allowing riverboat casinos.

"We knew it would be close, but we knew we had a chance," said Don Wideman, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention. Missouri Baptists were an outspoken opponent of the riverboat gambling measure — an issue before Missouri voters for the second time in two years. "We were grateful for the

second chance. I am very encouraged by the grassroots participation."

Despite the vote, many riverboat operators are surging ahead — planning to open floating casinos with blackjack and poker tables. Those games were considered games of skill by the state Supreme Court and therefore constitutional. Operating with the limited games, however, would curb profits.

Tom Irwin, executive director of the Missouri Gaming Commission, estimated slot machines were to be the main revenue source for the boats, accounting for about 70% of the casino space.

Wideman acknowledged several factors were in Missouri

Baptists' favor for the outcome, including an election that typically caters to the opposition vote because of the lower voter turnout. He also pointed to an emerging national awareness of the economic and social concerns related to legalized gambling.

Secular media attention, such as an expose in U.S. News & World Report, and various academic studies about the socioeconomic drawbacks created from gambling added timely credence to an issue traditionally considered a moral fight. Missouri Baptists and others in the religious community worked hard to focus the gambling debate more on the economic concerns rather than moral ones.

Observe Cooperative Program Day, April 17, 1994

To some the Cooperative Program is a collection of funds. To others it is a unified budget. Still others view it as a plan for cooperative missions.

The Cooperative Program has been called "the glue that holds Southern Baptists together," or "the rope of sand with strength of steel," or "the lifeline of missions," and numerous other designations.

The Cooperative Program may be all or a blend of its titles and appellations, but my 23 years of service on the mission field have brought me to the conviction that it is more than a humanly devised program to finance missions. To me the Cooperative Program is a living miracle. I have experienced and witnessed it firsthand.

The Cooperative Program is a miracle of faith.

Each Lord's Day faithful Baptists give by faith to their local church and by faith the church shares a percentage of those gifts each week or month for the work of Christ in the state, the USA, and throughout the world. Faithlessness on the part of all Southern Baptists for just one Sunday would create a denominational economic crisis of astronomical proportions! Missionaries thank God daily for the faithfulness of Southern Baptists.

10 alternatives for hurting and hopeless lost humanity

Your church employs over 9,000 missionaries. They are ministering to hurting and hopeless lost humanity in more than 125 countries and all 50 United States. As they present the gospel, your extended ministerial staff is witnessing. Through the Cooperative Program hundreds of thousands are won to Christ annually.

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--|
| ALTERNATIVE | 1 — | Don Richards, Brazil, uses the Jesus film as an evangelism tool. |
| ALTERNATIVE | 2 — | Martice Owens, Namibia, nurse, rejoices with converted witch doctor. |
| ALTERNATIVE | 3 — | Radford Hutcheson, New Mexico, works with Anglos and Hispanics. |
| ALTERNATIVE | 4 — | Clark Cother, Arizona, gives leadership to church starting. |
| ALTERNATIVE | 5 — | Sharon McClung, Ecuador, teaches children from broken homes. |
| ALTERNATIVE | 6 — | Bob Brindle, New Hampshire, trains new pastors to work creatively. |
| ALTERNATIVE | 7 — | Allan Murphy, Venezuela, leads college students in evangelism. |
| ALTERNATIVE | 8 — | Kay Gerlach, Baltimore, operates a unique Baptist mission center. |
| ALTERNATIVE | 9 — | David Torres, Florida, reaches out to Spanish speaking people. |
| ALTERNATIVE | 10 — | Your church increases its Cooperative Program giving. |

Who will go? Who will send? Yes, I will.

Devotional...

Accusers

By J.C. Hall

What is an accuser? When doing a word study, one will find the word *accuse* means to "judge worthy of punishment, to condemn." Such accusers are found in John 8:1-11. In verse 10, Jesus asks the woman accused of adultery, "Where are those thine accusers?" Jesus knew what type of people had stood in his presence.

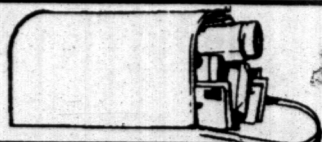
In these verses, the religious accusers wanted the adulterous woman to be punished. These self-righteous, "perfect," and proud religious accusers were not at all embarrassed to drag out and expose the wrong-doer. They wanted the woman to be publicly disgraced, ridiculed, tormented, and even stoned to death. They made sure that all knew about her sinful act. Her accusers were only following their leader. Revelation 12:10 says Satan is the accuser, for he accuses the children of God continually, "day and night."

Why are there accusers in today's religious circle? First, because they have not come face to face with the Lord Jesus Christ. Second, they see themselves as self-righteous, perfect, and more spiritual than others. Third, they have not confessed their own sinful acts. Fourth, they do not love their brothers or their enemies. Fifth, they love to see wrongdoers punished. Sixth, they deal with their own sinful acts by pointing out the sinful acts of others. Finally, they are doing what their father, the Evil One, has been doing since creation. They may not be physically dragging out the wrongdoer, but they expose him by gossiping and pointing out his sinful act.

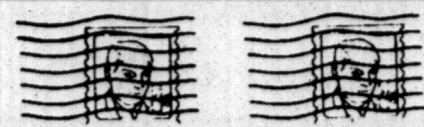
If the accusers in John 8:1-11 had had the right relationship with the Lord, they would have lovingly and tenderly tried to heal and restore the adulterous woman.

This is what Jesus did with the accused. He did not accuse the woman because he came to die for her. Remember, the quality of one's heart is made known by what one does with the wrongdoer.

Hall is pastor of Providence Church, Grenada.



Letters to the editor



Looking for teachers

Editor:

My name is Beth Bailey, and my husband and I are foreign missionaries with the Foreign Mission Board serving in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. I am originally from Mississippi, and a graduate of Blue Mountain College. My two children, Benjamin and Andrew, attend Inter-American School, a Christian school begun by missionaries in Quetzaltenango. I volunteer and substitute at the school as needed, but the school is an invaluable aid to the ministry of our family. The school has grades kindergarten through 12, and is staffed by Christian volunteers from the United States and Canada. The evangelical school is interdenominational, and I have been impressed with the truly Christ-like teachers who have come to teach here.

Below is a list of positions that are available for the school year 1994-95. It is my wish that any certified Christian teacher with interest in coming to serve in this way contact me or the Inter-American School (address below). Although the school was begun for missionary children, we now have the opportunity to minister to many Guatemalan children as well. Many of these children come from families who are not born-again Christians.

Thank you so much for your help in this matter. The teachers needed for 1994-95 are:

K-Grade 12: teachers for grades 1, 3, 5; librarian; physical education teacher; art/drama teacher; computer teacher.

Secondary (grades 7-12): science teacher; multi-discipline

teacher (math/history/English); counselor.

Inter-American School, Apartado 24, 09901, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.

Beth Bailey
Guatemala

Thanks to Rory Lee

Editor:

I graduated from Mississippi College in 1974. I believe that it is the finest institution of higher learning in the state of Mississippi. I know that Mississippi College has gone through some trying times, but it has weathered the storms and has come out on top due to the excellent leadership of its administration and most especially Rory Lee. We must not let his sound leadership go unnoticed. I believe in giving credit where credit is due, and all those who care about Mississippi College should give a big "Thank you" to Lee.

Alan Kilgore, pastor
First Church
Batesville

From Jerry Rankin

Editor:

We have recently projected the total amount of the 1993 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions and anticipate receiving a 1.89% increase over last year. This will mean a record offering by more than \$1.5 million. Such faithful and generous giving by Southern Baptists is an encouragement to us and will enable us to continue the appointment of record numbers of missionaries and take advantage of unprecedented opportunities for advancement in sharing the gospel around the world.

Of the states which reflect an increase in the Lottie Moon Offering over last year, Mississippi had the largest increase of any state convention. I am grateful for your high priority for reaching a lost world and the confidence you have expressed in the Foreign Mission Board. I am proud to be a Mississippian and to know the same missions vision which nurtured my call to missions is still vibrant throughout the state.

I trust the commitment indicated by your mission gifts will also be reflected by your faithful prayer support for the work of the Foreign Mission Board.

Jerry Rankin, president
Foreign Mission Board
Richmond, Va.

What about our own?

Editor:

The great outpouring of compassion and empathy emanating for (Russell) Dilday's termination is truly amazing. I too concur! I am truly confident we can now count on these same folks to respond in like manner to the average (130 in the SBC each week) pastors who are terminated for less trivialities than Dilday is accused of. These men who are terminated today with no compensation, no \$3,000 a month for an office.

No place to go with family and belongings, and no health insurance. The Church-Minister Relations Department (MBCB) aid is great for a while and they tell us it usually takes about six to 12 months to relocate, IF they are fortunate to relocate at all.

But, today I am reassured — because of Dilday's termination, we can count on all these appalled

defenders to come to the defense of our terminated brothers also.

Or, is their empathy coupled to that long New Testament word, *hypokrites*?

These terminated men are not involved in any so-called "SBC controversy." They simply minister in the name of Jesus as best they can. Oh, probably fundamentalist though, and refuse to compromise regardless of colloquial spirits.

They simply insist "the truth still makes men free!"

It seems that kind of preaching is not that popular in some places. The accusation of power and control is as nonsensical in Dilday's case as theirs.

But it is good fodder for some who continue to decry fundamentalism taking over the Southern Baptist Convention.

I always thought biblical fundamentalism was the core of our belief and faith as Southern Baptists!

So, let's be vigilant to discern if future terminations (equal in God's sight) receive the same attention!

"But even if you should suffer for righteousness sake, you are blessed" (1 Peter 3:14).

Bill Franks, pastor
New Salem Church
Columbus

Show of hands

Editor:

All pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention who would like for their deacon body to orchestrate their dismissal in the same manner in which Russell Dilday was fired, please raise a hand!

John Gibson Jr., pastor
First Church
Greenwood

Morrison Heights hosts spring prayer conference

"Prayer: Hit or Miss?" is the title of the April 23 Prayer Conference at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

Dolores and Bob Magee will lead the conference. They are former Mississippians and missionaries to Chile and Colombia, and currently live in Walnut Ridge, Ark.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. in the church's fellowship hall. A nursery will be provided, but parents must call in advance. For more information contact the church at (601) 925-6450. The seminar is free.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

How do I stop my 10-year-old son from talking so rudely to me?

A good first question should be, "Is he intentionally doing this to hurt me?" He is at the point in his life where he is trying to see how much power and control he can exert to get his way. Your job is to remain consistent while understanding what is going on in his life. You are seeing testosterone at its best, and little boys need constant guidance on how to direct this inner energy to yield maximum results for themselves, God, and others. Fathers can be especially helpful in modeling for their sons the best ways to exert this power and energy. When he is talking respectfully and appropriately, you can affirm and praise him. When he doesn't, use statements like, "I can't hear you when you speak in such ways; do you think you could say that another way?" By helping him in these ways, you are not shaming him for trying to express himself. You are disciplining him to become a well-mannered and respectful man.

My oldest daughter has

refused all contact with her father and me for over 10 years. Her father is not doing well physically, and I just want to talk with her. What should I do?

There is no easy solution. Be as honest as possible with your daughter, who may be harboring deep hurts about which you know nothing and she has chosen not to share. Let her know of your hurts and her father's health, and then PRAY for God's special cleansing of your daughter's hurts with which she may struggle. A mother's love is to keep giving as the Lord has given you, not to manipulate but to inform your daughter of your needs and wishes. Be patient and don't give up, just as our heavenly Father never gives up on us. To the children who are in this situation, you also need to seek God's direction and leadership. You may have tried to resolve this and gotten no response. Both parents and children must ask, "Where is this getting us? For whom am I doing this?" I realize this may open a can of worms for some of you, and I would appreciate any responses on how you handled this situation.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



Margaret Lackey Offering aids Simpson Co. church

A \$2,500 gift was recently presented to Beulah Church, Simpson Association, by the Pastoral and Church Building Aid Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The funds are available to assist churches in building and rebuilding from gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering. The sanctuary of Beulah Church was destroyed by fire Nov. 27, 1992,

was rebuilt and dedicated June 13, 1993. Oliver Ladnier (left), Convention Board member and pastor of First Church, Magee, presented the check to Billy Ingram (center), pastor of Beulah. Farris Smith (right), Simpson Association director of missions, was witness to the presentation.

Just for the Record



Danny Wildman (right), chairman of deacons at Wade Church, Jackson County, recently presented a check from the church to Romanian pastor **Cornel Bucaciuc**. The \$10,000 will help with the construction of Bethany Baptist Church in Seceava, Romania. Bucaciuc is in the States through April preaching at various churches and working at the Home of Grace in Vancleave. Bill Barton is pastor at Wade Church.

Campers on Mission (COM) recently met for their annual South area spring rally at Archusa Creek Water Park, Quitman. The 82 members conducted a three-day meeting which included a commissioning ceremony for: Joe and Catherine Heranney of Hollandale, going to Japan for new church construction; Earl and Frances Allen of Ridgeland; Russell and Pete Reeves of McComb; and Horace and Bonnie Ross of Ridgeland, going to Mexico for mission station facilities repair. COM is an interdenominational organization under the auspices of the Special Ministries Department of the Home Mission Board, SBC.

New Zion Church, Crystal Springs, exceeded its \$3,500 goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions. The total amount collected in one day was \$4,080. Leroy Brewer Jr. is pastor.

Mississippi College's Concert Chorale will perform the "Chichester Psalms" and other pieces April 15 at Galloway Memorial Methodist Church, Jackson, at 7:30 p.m. The performance is part of the Joint Convention of American Choral Directors' Association and the Mississippi Music Educators' Association.

New Palestine Church, Pica-

June, will host Christian recording artist Renee Scheidt, in concert May 1 at 6 p.m.

First Church, Lafayette, La., on May 22 will celebrate **Perry Sanders'** 35th anniversary as pastor, and his 50th year in the ministry. The celebration will include a homecoming, dinner on the grounds after the 11 a.m. worship, and an orchestra concert in the afternoon. Sanders has often spoken at conferences in Mississippi.

RAs of Williamsville Church, Kosciusko, recently spent the night aboard the battleship USS Alabama in Mobile. The boys and their leaders toured the submarine USS Drum and several aircraft. Allen Simpson is pastor, Williamsville.

First Church, Poplarville, recently began a major renovation on its landmark 60-year-old sanctuary. The church hopes to finish work by the beginning of June. Bob Rogers is pastor.

West Jackson Street Church, Tupelo, will host "Gold City" in concert May 14 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$6 in advance. For more information, call the church at (601) 842-7875.

Emmanuel Church, Pearl, will host the Rankin County Baptist Youth Late Nite Extra April 17 beginning at 8:30 p.m. The evening will feature a drama presentation, "Who Do You Listen To?" For more information, call the church at (601) 939-9175.

First Church, Batesville, will host Scott Springer in concert April 30 at 7 p.m. A love offering will be taken. For more information, call the church at (601) 563-4070.

The annual meeting of the **Southern Baptist Women in Ministry** will be held May 5 at the Holiday Inn in Greensboro, N.C., beginning at 10 a.m. The meeting will be held under the theme "A Future Hope: Dwelling in Possibility," and will feature Amy Mears of Huntington, W.Va. Lunch will be offered for \$12, but pre-paid reservations are required. For more information, contact SBWIM at (502) 896-4425 by April 15.

Antioch Church, Union, will host "The Greenes" of Boone, N.C., in concert April 21 at 7 p.m. For more information, call (601) 986-8761.

writer, Arlington, Texas, will lead the services. For more information, call (601) 892-1149.

Pineview, Hattiesburg: May 1-6; services Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Danny Lafferty, Columbia, preaching; John and Lisa McDaniel, Memphis, music; Mon., 6 p.m. youth night; Tues., 6 p.m. children's night. For more information, call (601) 584-7880; Bobby Shurden, pastor.

Oak Grove, Smithdale (Mississippi): April 22-24; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11:30 a.m. followed by dinner and a gospel sing; Richard Cothem, Mt. Olive Church, evangelist; Clay Foster, Meadville, music; Buddy McMorris, pastor.

Lynn Ray Road, Petal: April 17-20; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7 nightly; Clark Stewart, Crystal Springs, evangelist; Charles Walker, music; Emmett Boone, pastor.

Kreole Avenue, Moss Point: April 17-21; Sunday, 10:45 a.m., dinner at noon, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Tommy Brill, Escatawpa, evangelist; Ken Chambliss, pastor.

Sandi Patti highlights musical evening at Mississippi College

Internationally-acclaimed Christian music star Sandi Patti will headline Mississippi College's seventh annual "Naturally Spectacular" event on Saturday, April 30, at 7 p.m. in A.E. Wood Coliseum on the Clinton campus.

The event is hosted each spring by The Naturals, the college's touring show troupe that has performed before 35,000 people since the start of their current tour last fall. They will open the evening with their fast-paced musical presentation, along with Jackson violin prodigies Jason and Daniel Guthrie.

"Our coliseum seats 4,000 people, and tickets are already going at a brisk pace," said Robbie Lloyd Bell, producer/director of The Naturals.

Patti has been described as one of America's most inspirational vocalists with her strong Christian witness through song. She has won five Grammy music awards and 32 Gospel Dove music awards.

In addition, three of her albums went platinum (sales of over 1 million) and four other albums went gold (sales of over 500,000) — rare occurrences for gospel singers.

Patti accepted the invitation to perform at Mississippi College to help raise funds for scholarships, equipment, and transportation for The Naturals performers, Bell said.

The group tours year-round to present a positive image of Missis-



Patti

issippi College and the state's Baptists, she added.

Tickets are \$13.50 and \$15 each, with a \$1 per ticket discount for groups of 20 or more. Tickets are available at the college's music department on campus in Clinton; Baptist Book Store at Ridgewood Court; Family Bookstore in Northpark Mall; Music Box at Canton Mart Plaza; and both locations of Maranatha Book Stores at Maranatha Square and Colonial Mart.

Reservations for dinner at Morrison's Cafeteria on campus are also being accepted. Dinner will be served for \$3.50 per person from 4 p.m.-6 p.m.

For more information on Naturally Spectacular and to make dinner reservations, call (601) 925-3440.

Revival Dates

First Church, Lyman: April 17-22; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, Lake, evangelist; Christopher Holder, Ocean Springs, music; W.T. (Ty) Pigott Jr., pastor.

Antioch, Columbus: April 17-22; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Andre Dobson, Louisville, evangelist; C.C. Burns, music; Edward N. Knox, pastor.

First, Crystal Springs: April 17-20; services, 11 a.m. on Sunday and 7 p.m. each night; April 16, youth rally, 7:30 p.m.; Tierce Green, speaker, singer, and song-

Hinds-Madison begins DOM search

Hinds-Madison Association is accepting applications for the position of director of missions, to replace retiring DOM J.W. Brister. Interested persons should mail their resume to Charles Gladney, Personnel Committee, Hinds-Madison Baptist Association, 6530 Dogwood View Parkway, Jackson, MS 39213.

Incorrect time changed for State Bible Drills

An incorrect time is listed in the Baptist Diary for the April 23 State Bible Drills at Parkway Church, Jackson, and First Church, Clinton. The correct time is 1:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

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CASAS ADOBES BAPTIST CHURCH announces search for a youth minister for 9-12 grades. Our current Sr. High Sunday School enrollment is approximately 530. Call Rhonda Sprunger at (602) 297-7238, or write 2131 W. Ina Road, Tucson, AZ 85741-2699 for additional information.

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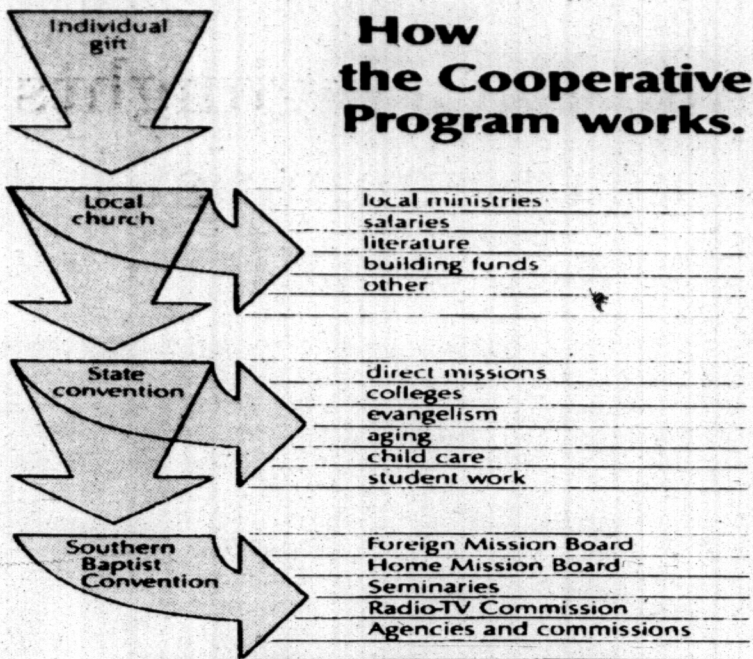
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Names in the News



Staff Changes

Tate Church, Corinth, announces that **Michael R. Brister** has joined its staff as associate pastor/minister to students. A native of Hazlehurst, he received his education at the University of Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served in Louisiana and Georgia and goes to Tate Church from Park Place Church, Pearl.



Brister

Tom F. Rayburn has announced his retirement from

the ministry to become effective May 17. Southside Church, Meridian, licensed and ordained him to the ministry. He has preached for approximately 46 years. His pastorates in Mississippi include Immanuel, Vicksburg; First and Osborne Creek, Booneville; First, Florence; Second Avenue, Laurel, where he served twice; and Calvary, Jackson, as pastor's assistant. He is a graduate of Bob Jones University, Greenville, S.C., and Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth. Rayburn will be available for pulpit supply and interim pastorates. His address is 124 Villa Way, Clinton, MS 39056 or call (601) 924-4525.

Alumni homecoming will be held at Clarke College, May 14

The Clarke College Alumni Association will meet on the camps for homecoming on Sat., May 14.

Homecoming will begin with registration/continental breakfast at 9 a.m. The program will begin at 10:15 a.m. in the former Lott Fine Arts Building. A short business session directed by Rickey McKay, president, alumni association, will address important information such as future meet-

ings and the establishment of a Clarke College Hall of Fame.

Class reunion meetings will convene at 1 p.m. There will also be a meeting for former faculty and staff, and a meeting for friends of Clarke College.

For additional information, call McKay, (601) 563-3984; Paul Lee, 638-4221; Evelyn Williams, 646-5960; Marian Thornton, 635-2911, or Glenn Shows, 853-2628.



Don Taylor was ordained at Conehatta Church on March 6. He is pastor of Springfield Church, Leake Association. Pictured are John Fulcher, chairman of deacons, Conehatta Church; Taylor, and John Sharp, director of missions, Scott and Newton Counties.

Bruce M. Jones of Columbus earned the diploma in biblical studies from the Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute located in the Southern Baptist Convention building in Nashville. Seminary Extension's Independent Study Institute is accredited by the National Home Study Council.

Evelyn Schwartz, 76, former Southern Baptist missionary to Indonesia, died April 3 after several weeks of illness at Knox General Hospital in Melbourne, Australia. Schwartz had been living for the past seven years in Australia. She was working with Blackburn North Baptist Church in Melbourne in an outreach ministry to Indonesians. Schwartz, from Winchester, Tenn., was

appointed a missionary to Hawaii, then considered a foreign mission field, in 1949 and transferred to Indonesia in 1953, where she worked until her retirement in 1986.

George Kidd, former Oklahoma pastor and evangelist, is available for supply, revivals, and Bible studies. He may be contacted at 601-924-4876 or 101 Sweetgum Lane, Clinton, MS 39056. References on request.

Sean K. Tutor of Tupelo is available for supply preaching, interim, and pastoral duties. He can be contacted at 34 Fair Oaks Dr., Belden, MS 38826 or call 601-840-4639 or 844-7499.



West Ripley Church, Ripley, ordained **Randy Hamilton** and **Stanley Huddleston** to the gospel ministry. Both men were serving as deacons at West Ripley Church. Hamilton serves as pastor of Beulah Church, Myrtle, and is a student at Blue Mountain College. Huddleston is serving as associate pastor and minister of youth at West Ripley Church, and is also a student at Blue Mountain College. Pictured from left are Hamilton, Billy W. Baker, pastor, and Huddleston.



Ben Caston, left, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clay Caston of Liberty, was licensed to the gospel ministry by Liberty Church on March 13. He is a church music student at William Carey College. Presenting the certificate is Gary Bowlin, interim pastor.



About 230 members of Puckett Church, Puckett, recently gathered to honor **Mattie Leon McLain** for her 50 years of service as church clerk. Barry Ward, pastor, presented McLain a gift on behalf of the church.

FBC, Brandon, hosts women's conference

The first annual Christian Women's Conference will be held at First Church, Brandon, May 6-7.

Theme for the conference will be "Choosing God's Way." Featured speaker will be Barbara O'Chester of Texas (formerly of Mississippi); small group workshops will focus on prayer, time management, and making a house a home.

Cost for the conference is \$15 per person, which includes refreshments, materials, and lunch. For more information, call Dianne Shelton at (601) 825-3366 or Janet Bushey, (601) 824-0103.

Baptist religion profs deplore Dilday firing

DALLAS (BP) — A group of Baptist professors of religion, meeting in Dallas, approved a resolution deploring "the unprovoked and unjustified termination of President (Russell) Dilday."

Dilday was fired March 9 by trustees of Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.

The National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion, Southwest Region, unanimously approved the resolution, according

to Larry McGraw, secretary-treasurer of the regional group which met March 17-18. McGraw is associate professor of Bible at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas.

The resolution cited Dilday's leadership as creating a "flourishing center of theological education of the highest quality of Baptists," and his firing "gravely imperils the future of theological education (at the seminary) and other Baptist institutions of higher learning."

Also, the resolution calls for the group and other Baptist leaders "within the Southwest Region to take reconciling and rectifying steps that will restore the integrity of theological education which SWBTS has embodied."



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Surviving the embargo

Southern Baptist missionary Mark Rutledge and Haitian Baptist farmers survey a crop of grain sorghum near Paredon, Haiti. Rutledge and his wife Peggy operate an agricultural ministry teaching farmers to improve their crop yield and quality of land. Since the United Nations reinstated an economic embargo against Haiti's military regime last October, soaring prices have made poor Haitians even poorer. The Rutledges are trying to help farmers make the best use of their resources in order to survive. See related article on page 4. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

Americans more religious, society less, survey says

WASHINGTON (ABP) — While most Americans see themselves becoming more religious, they see their country as becoming less so, according to a new study by U.S. News & World Report.

Almost two thirds (62%) of the Americans surveyed by the news-magazine say religion has a growing influence on their lives. But even more (65%) say religion is losing its influence on American life.

The study, published in the magazine's April 4 issue, found ample evidence of faith among the masses:

— 76% of Americans say God is a personal being who hears prayer. To others, God is an impersonal creator (8%) or idea (11%).

— 80% say the Bible is the Word of God. While 34% say it should be taken literally, 46% say it is inspired but not all literally true.

— 68% belong to a church or synagogue, and 30% say they attend services every week. There is one church for every 900 Americans, more than in any other country, the magazine reported.

— 46% describe themselves as "born again."

While those numbers suggest Americans are as religious as ever, the magazine said, most Americans see their culture as less influenced by religion or even hostile toward their moral or spiritual values.

For some this is experienced as open hostility from society in general, an opinion voiced by 30% of

Americans surveyed. But even more Americans detect hostility from specific social institutions — television, 62%; newspapers, 46%; Congress, 47%; President Clinton, 34%.

While Americans apparently would like society's moral commitment to more resemble their own, they don't want to limit individual freedom or invoke the power of government to accomplish that, the survey found.

Six out of seven Americans (84%) say government policies should reflect moral values, and 55% say God is the moral guiding force in American democracy. Yet 91% say individual freedom is an essential element of democracy, and 53% say church and state should be kept separate.

That creates something of a dilemma for Americans, U.S. News concluded. "As a people, we are uneasy with the perpetual tension between our religious impulses and our unwavering commitment to a secular society," the magazine said.

While Americans may be as outwardly religious as their forebears, the magazine said, the content of their faith is changing. They are more eclectic in their faith, more tolerant of other beliefs, and less devoted to the dividing lines of denominations and dogma.

The survey found that 70% of Americans believe "each individual must determine what is right or wrong." And 48% say "there is no one set of values that is right."

Baptist Record taps new writers for Sunday School commentaries

The Baptist Record has selected two pastors and a retired missionary to serve as Sunday School lesson commentary writers for the last two quarters of 1994. Commentaries by the new writers will begin publication with the June 30 issue of the Record.

Richard A. Bradley will write commentaries for the Convention Uniform series.

Bradley has been pastor of Handsboro Church, Gulfport, for the past five years. He currently is vice moderator of Gulf Coast Association. He also has served as pastor of five other Mississippi Baptist churches.

Bradley holds a bachelor of science degree from the University of Central Arkansas and a master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife Brenda have

two daughters.

Raymond L. Kolb will write lesson commentaries for the Bible Book series. A native of Mississippi, Kolb served for 44 years as a missionary in Brazil with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. During that time, he served as field missionary, pastor, seminary professor, and administrator.

At his retirement in 1988, he was associate to the area director.

Since retirement, he has been a visiting professor at Mississippi College, his alma mater. He holds master's and doctor of theology degrees from Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He and his wife Martha have four children and nine grandchildren.

Lee Berg will write lesson commentaries for the Life and Work series. Berg has been pastor

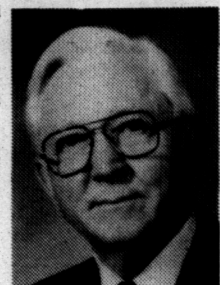
of First Church, Meridian, since February 1993. He moved to Mississippi from an eight-year pastorate of West Oaks Church, Houston, Texas. He also served other Texas Baptist churches as pastor and minister of youth.

Berg currently is a member of the Parent University Task Force, Meridian-Lauderdale County Partnership and holds national leadership positions with Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

A native of Texas, Berg holds a bachelor's degree from Houston (Texas) University, a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary, and the doctor of philosophy degree from Baylor University. He and his wife Carol have a daughter and a son, John, 9.



Bradley



Kolb



Berg

Mississippi tops nation in sobering statistic for never-married mothers

There were nearly 4 million never-married mothers in the United States in 1992 — almost double the number 10 years earlier. They represent about 12% of all mothers. (These numbers reflect mothers between the ages of 15 and 45.)

Nationally, one in four never-married women are mothers.

Births to unmarried women are often thought to be primarily to teenagers — but in 1991, 70% of births to unmarried women were to those age 20 and older.

Percent of never-married women who are mothers

U.S. Average	23.7%		
Mississippi	42.4	Colorado	22.7
South Carolina	38.1	New York	22.6
Indiana	33.4	Hawaii	21.4
New Mexico	33.0	Missouri	20.7
Louisiana	32.3	Oregon	20.6
District of Columbia	30.8	Arizona	20.2
Alabama	29.9	California	19.7
Maryland	29.9	Kentucky	19.6
Georgia	29.5	Nebraska	19.4
Arkansas	29.4	Minnesota	19.4
Florida	29.1	Ohio	19.4
Tennessee	28.6	Virginia	18.9
Connecticut	28.6	Washington	17.7
North Carolina	26.5	Oklahoma	16.2
Michigan	26.5	Iowa	15.8
Illinois	25.9	Maine	14.9
Wisconsin	25.9	Kansas	14.4
Texas	25.6	Rhode Island	13.7
New Jersey	23.1	Massachusetts	13.3
Pennsylvania	22.7	Utah	6.0

— Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, June 1992, Current Population Survey. Unpublished.

— Source: Population Today, November, 1993; Reprinted with permission from Research Review, Home Mission Board, SBC, Winter '94

New Orleans Seminary trustees promote four Mississippi natives during spring meeting

New Orleans Seminary trustees approved the following Mississippians for promotions during their spring meeting:

Argile A. Smith, a native of Poplarville, will occupy the J.D. Grey Chair of Preaching. He is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary, and former pastor of Trinity Heights Church, Shreveport, La.

Paula A. Stringer, a Gulfport native, was granted tenure by

seminary trustees. She is a graduate of Mississippi College and the University of Southern Mississippi. She was formerly childhood development director at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, and assistant professor of elementary education at Mississippi College.

Sidney L. Buckley, was also granted tenure. He is a Columbia native and a graduate of William Carey College, New Orleans Seminary, and Florida State University.

He was formerly on faculty at Furman University in South Carolina.

Jimmy W. Dukes was promoted to professor of New Testament and Greek. The Jackson native has served the seminary as academic provost and academic dean of the undergraduate faculty since 1984.

He was educated at Delta State University and New Orleans Seminary.

Cross Over Orlando



Uniform Using gifts to serve



By Doug Bain
Romans 12

Living sacrifices (vv. 1-2). "Therefore," the text says. Therefore, because of the truth in Romans 1-11, here now in 12-15 is the kind of life that grows out of them. The cascading images are awesome. Commentary must activate imagination, where such images register deeply, where beliefs influence behavior.

"Great mercy." In light of the sinfulness of humankind, the plight of extreme needfulness, the stalemate created by rebellion and by humanly constructed religion, consider the incredible mercy of God, who transforms our evil into good.

"Offer yourselves." Grippled by the truths of the first chapters, willingly offer up your whole being to God's purposes. Offer not just the commendable and appealing, but the inadequate and the unconscionable so they can be recycled.

"Living sacrifices." This is the essential characteristic in the servant status and in the cross-bearing of Jesus' kind of living — surrendering a private agenda and personal empire, embracing pain so that loving can really happen — this is "living" sacrifice and is the true worship.

"Not conformed to this world" — not unwittingly pressed into a misshapen mold by the subtle emphases of media values, by cultural assumptions about success, or even by religion that has bought into society's rules for success.

"Transformed by the renewing of the mind." Scripture truth acknowledges the power of mental-emotional images in determining transactions, knowing that distorted images issue in distorted transactions. Jesus taught in parables to reach this imaging facility. The Holy Spirit would quicken our minds, doing "cognitive restructuring," renewing daily the true images of discipleship and kingdom living, distinct from what the world portrays as ideal.

One body, differing gifts (vv. 3-8). The familiarity of the image of the body should not blind us to its truth. The body is what gives visible expression to the essential self. The Body (the Church) is what gives expressibility to the Essential Person, Jesus Christ. Through the Body, the Person of Christ expresses himself and moves about in the world, multiplying the effect, so that the many do what the One did before, and even more. For the Person to be fully functioning, all the Body must be engaged and operational. There need be no discussion of which part is more important. They are all needed in harmonious relationship for the Body to be effective. When one part is nonoperational, the body is impaired and needs healing. Every part is not expected to do the same job. The cumulative effect is the point, so that Christ is magnified and not each part.

Life in the fellowship (vv. 9-13, 15-16). Almost a dozen and a half "imperatives" occur in these seven verses, portraying attitudes and actions characteristic of the life captivated by God's truth-story. This is the shape of the new humanity, this is what the Body "looks like." The one who truly experiences acceptance by the Father is liberated for living in all the ways presented. All the characteristics are ways in which Jesus experienced and exercised his complete humanity. Each characteristic represents the miracle of grace, of Christ expressed in lived behavior, sin downsized, no hidden agendas, just *agape* love experienced and expressed.

Response to shabby treatment (vv. 14, 17-18). While shabby treatment from the world may not surprise the believer, such experience within the fellowship may indeed be surprising, even hostility generating. Saul threw spears at David and it happens in the "royal family" today as well. The text calls for the believer, like young David, not to let being a target cause one to join the ranks of spear hurlers in retaliation. Peace making is different from "defending my turf." It gets to the heart of the attack mode of perpetual defensiveness, calling for one to allow personal injustices on occasion. When injustice was hurled at him, Jesus let that be redemptively transformed into something positive. How else is the world — and the Body — to be healed? Let us use our grace gifts so that the Body may represent the Savior to a desperate world!

Bain is professor of biblical and related studies, Blue Mountain College.

Bible Book The close of Jesus' ministry



By Dan Howard
John 12

Someone asked William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, the secret of his success. With tear-filled eyes, he said, "There have been men with greater brains or opportunities than I, but I made up my mind that God would have all of William Booth there was." General Booth's daughter stated, "That wasn't really his secret — his secret was that he never took it back."

Are we willing to surrender our all and give the best we have to the Lord in response to his mercy and grace given to us? Mary was willing.

Mary anoints Jesus' feet (v. 3). Jesus was visiting in the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. It was six days before the Passover and the crucifixion of Jesus. During this visit Mary took the most precious possession she had and gave it to her Lord. The ointment she poured on Jesus' feet was a perfume that cost 300 denarii. This equalled a year's wages. By taking her hair down to wipe the perfume, Mary risked destroying her reputation. Mary was willing to surrender her all to show her gratitude to Jesus and how deeply she loved him. No cost was too great for her to sacrifice for her Savior and Lord.

The chief priests' plot against Lazarus (vv. 10-11). The religious leaders of Jesus' day were becoming concerned about the number of people coming to believe on Jesus as the Messiah. Part of the reason for this acceptance by the people was the resurrection of Lazarus. Many of the chief priests were Sadducees who did not believe in resurrection. Because of these facts they devised a plan to destroy Lazarus.

Jesus acclaimed by the people (vv. 12-13). People were gathering in Jerusalem for the Passover. As Jesus came riding on a donkey into Jerusalem on Sunday, people came to greet him. They began waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord." Palm branches were a symbol of victory and triumph. The shout of *hosanna* was a cry meaning, "Save us now." The people were welcoming Jesus as the great conqueror and deliverer from Roman oppression. Jesus was not coming as they thought, but in peace to serve all men.

The coming of Jesus' hour (vv. 25-26). Jesus stated in verse 23 that his hour had come. His hour referred to his death, resurrection, and ascension. Jesus was to be glorified through his death on the cross. Jesus disclosed that he would die by using the analogy of a grain of wheat. The only way a grain of wheat can bear fruit is to die. In the same way Jesus stated that man's hour had come. Jesus indicated that if a person wants to save his life and gain eternal life then he must be willing to sacrifice his life and give all that he is and has for Christ. The person who makes the choice to deny what he wants in order to follow God's way will be assured of the presence of Jesus and the honor of the Father.

Jesus' commitment to his mission (vv. 27-33). The commitment of Jesus to the mission of his Father is a challenge to us. Even though Jesus was troubled, stressed out, and disturbed about the crucifixion, he was committed to fulfilling his mission of dying for mankind. He was also committed to being obedient to his Father. God would be glorified through the obedient, sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross. Through Jesus' death on the cross God's purpose for the world will be complete. Satan will be cast out as the prince of this world, and men will be attracted to Christ.

Barriers of true faith (vv. 42-43). Many people today understand that Jesus is the Messiah but they are not saved because they will not confess him as their personal Savior. The word confess in verse 42 means "to speak agreeable to fact and truth." Many people will not confess Jesus because they fear they will lose their position, job, power, recognition, and security. Another reason is that they want the praise of men more than the praise of God. They do not want to take the chance of losing the acceptance, prestige, and favor of men. May we let nothing become a barrier to our coming Jesus.

Jesus surrendered his all for us. What will you give to him?

Howard is pastor, Woodville Church, Woodville.

Life and Work Related by grace



By Billie Buckley
Philippians 1

Are we related in any way today? If you can answer all the questions below with a resounding "yes!" then we must be kin: Anybody tired or lonely or running out of "cope"? Have you ever wanted to grab the controls of your life (if you can find them) and "fast forward" your struggles; "rewind" your triumphs; "pause" in your happiness; "erase" your mistakes; or just push the "off" button for a few days?

Surely, you have. Then you and I must be kin folks — related to each other by reason of being alive.

Paul would know our same desire to gain control of our lives. From the study of his life we can be certain he had found those controls and turned them over to his Lord, Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

Maybe we could use those same controls as we look at the information found in Philippians about Paul. Then, may we follow his example as we:

"Pause" in your greeting of others (vv. 1-2). On behalf of himself and Timothy, Paul extended from a Roman prison Christian greetings of grace and peace to the Philippian believers.

Just what was that grace spoken about in this thank you note? It's getting what you need and not what you deserve. It's unmerited favor. It's what we all have in common — a need for God's grace and forgiveness.

The other greeting was one of peace. It was his seal of approval on those who obeyed and followed his leadership.

To whom have you shared this "grace" and "peace" this week? We need to pray that God will extend these qualities through us to someone.

Push the "off" button allowing a recollection of the past (v. 3). The apostle's every recollection of the Philippian believers resulted in a prayer of thanksgiving. Loving relationships are those in which the persons involved are grateful to God for one another and for his blessings.

We could pray with Paul: "Father, thank you for the times in my life when you have rearranged, adjusted, trimmed, and worked in my life to help me do your will and do your good pleasure." These were not always easy times for Paul, yet he was always thankful. Are we?

"Rewind" your triumphs in building lasting relationship (vv. 4-6). Because of the partnership he and the Philippians had in the gospel, Paul joyously prayed for them. He had confidence this partnership would continue since it resulted from God's good work within them.

The real test of their partnership was that those who listened to Paul came to see and know Jesus better and better. Paul could have confidence in their partnership because through his teaching and life he had cleared a way to God through Christ. He continued to keep that way clear by his concern and love. Have you cleared the way for others to see Jesus today as Paul did? If so, "rewind" this triumph.

"Erase" your lack of stability (vv. 7-8). Paul's relationship with the Philippians was steadfast; it did not waver because of circumstances. Loving relationships are founded on the abiding love of Christ within believers, not the external circumstances in which they dwell.

This steadfastness in our relationships is what God asks us to look after. Maintaining this relationship with him produces an atmosphere others can be comfortable in and be drawn to him by. The main thing is not the work we do as Christians but the fruit that is produced by the constant, stable abiding in him.

"Fast forward" to heaven your prayers for others (vv. 9-11). Paul prayed that the Philippian believers would develop a mature love that was more than emotion. Believers who have a loving relationship with others will intercede to God for those persons and pray that his work will be evident in their lives.

Many see intercession as sympathy. Not so. Oswald Chambers, in his book *He Shall Glorify Me*, writes: "Intercession is a threefold intercession: at the throne of God, Jesus Christ; within the saint, the Holy Spirit; outside the saint, common-sense circumstances and common-sense people. As they are brought by us before God in prayer the Holy Spirit gets a chance to make intercession according to the will of God."

Buckley is a member of Petal-Harvey Church, Petal.

capsules

MUSLIMS KILL CHRISTIAN DEFENDANT, WOUND THREE IN PAKISTAN ATTACK: LAHORE, Pakistan (BP) — A Pakistani Christian on trial for his life for allegedly blaspheming Islam was shot and killed April 5 by Muslim radicals outside the court. Two other Christian defendants — including a 13-year-old boy — and another Christian suffered gunshot wounds in the attack. Manzoor Masih died instantly when gunmen on motorcycles opened fire on the four Christians after a hearing at the Lahore High Court. His co-defendants, Rehmat Masih and 13-year-old Salamat Masih, were injured along with a supporter, John Joseph. Manzoor Masih's body was riddled with nine bullets, hospital officials said, and Joseph and Rehmat Masih sustained serious injuries. Young Salamat Masih was shot in the hand. Based on eyewitness accounts, Reuters news service reported three men participated in the attack. News Network International put the number at four, and said Rehmat Masih was able to identify all of them for Pakistani police before going into surgery to remove five bullets. The assailants reportedly wore no masks.

GOSPEL PRESENTED VIA TV TO MILLIONS IN INDIA: VIJAYAWADA, India (EP) — Easter in India brought the gospel over the television airwaves through a production of Gospel Association of India (GAI). The program is estimated to have reached more than 400 million people with the gospel message. The program is aired through the national Indian television channel, a medium used by GAI at Easter and Christmas in past years. The Easter program follows a February crusade in Vijayawada that saw more than 15,000 people making decisions for Christ. Some 45,000 people gathered under tents the final day of the crusade, despite heavy rains in the region. In India, a country of 875 million people, only 2.5% profess to be Christians.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY CONCERNS VOICED AT MARCH BWA MEETING: ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Three Baptist leaders from Bulgaria, Russia, and Myanmar, special guests of the Baptist World Alliance at its March 8-10 executive committee meetings, urged the BWA to continue to plead for religious freedom around the world. The leaders told more than 80 BWA executive committee members who attended the meeting at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Va., of varying forms of religious persecution they face, from either their governments or the majority religions in their countries. While there are more than 1 million people in Baptist churches in Myanmar (formerly Burma) the entire Protestant community is only 5.6% in a country that is 85% Buddhist. A Burmese pastor told the meeting that the political situation affects the religious situation and the government is increasingly attempting to make Burma a Buddhist state and use Buddhism as a weapon to control the state. Because Baptists form the largest of the Christian groups, they are often discriminated against. While Baptists are very unhappy about their situation, they have no religious freedom rights to express their feelings. Burmese pastors are also afraid to speak out against the military government. While a Burmese pastor and his wife earn less each month than the cost of a bag of rice, Burmese pastors are still evangelizing.

TILTON'S \$61 MILLION LAWSUIT AGAINST ABC DISMISSED: DALLAS (EP) — Televangelist Robert Tilton's \$61 million lawsuit against the ABC television network, television personality Diane Sawyer, and others was dismissed by U.S. District Judge Robert Maloney March 16. Tilton filed the suit after ABC's "PrimeTime Live" broadcast an expose of his ministry, showing that his agents deposit checks from followers while discarding prayer requests. Tilton said the negative publicity destroyed his television ministry. In the suit, Tilton alleged that journalists, including Sawyer, WFAA-TV of Dallas, and the Dallas Morning News, had conspired to violate his civil rights.

WOMEN WHO HAVE ABORTIONS MORE LIKELY TO ENGAGE IN DRUG, ALCOHOL ABUSE: SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (EP) — A study of 700 American women has found that women who have abortions are significantly more likely to subsequently engage in drug or alcohol abuse than women who carry their babies to term. The study found that when women with a prior history of substance abuse are excluded, women who abort a first pregnancy were 3.9 times more likely to report subsequent drug or alcohol abuse than women who kept their babies (14.6% versus 3.8%). An analysis of women 20 years old or younger whose first pregnancy was unplanned found those who aborted were 2.4 times more likely to report subsequent substance abuse. The study is summarized in the fall, 1993 issue of *The Post-Abortion Review*, published by the Elliot Institute.

29-YEAR-OLD MOROCCAN SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS FOR CONVERTING TO CHRISTIANITY: CASABLANCA, Morocco (EP) — A 29-year-old Moroccan was sentenced to three years in prison for converting from Islam to Christianity. According to Middle East Concern, a Christian Human Rights organization, Mustafa Zemamda was arrested with 18 other Moroccans in September for receiving Christian literature by mail. After signing a statement declaring that they would no longer receive Christian material, the others were released. Zemamda refused to sign. More than 98% of the Moroccan population is Muslim.



FAMILY MATTERS — Minette Drumwright (right), retiring director of the Foreign Mission Board's international prayer strategy office, talks at home with her two daughters, Meme Perry (center) and Debra Underwood. Viewing prayer as the ultimate missions strategy has been Drumwright's philosophy since she took the helm of the prayer office in 1985. Her work included launching of the board's PrayerLine (1-800-359-PRAY). The prayer office also channels thousands of

printed missions prayer requests to Southern Baptists, coordinates prayer partnerships with 14 state Baptist conventions, and works with more than 1,000 churches that have committed to prayer for a specific unreached people group. Drumwright's plans include a possible short-term missions assignment and "the adventure of grandmothering." The Texas native also plans to lead two "prayer pilgrimages" to Latin America and North Africa. (BP photo by Sandy King)

Roswell, Ga., church stands by pastor in time of personal crisis

By Joyce Sweeney Martin

ROSWELL, Ga. (BP) — Many times during the last nine years First Church of Roswell could have turned its back on their pastor and wife and said, "Enough."

Instead, over and over the church has opened its heart more widely to embrace Jerry and Jane Songer and to model what a caring church should be.

"It has not always been easy," admitted deacon Bo Buice and a member for 46 years. "But I believe we have come through this experience as better people."

The long journey began on the eve of the Songers' first anniversary at the church, when Jane was diagnosed with lymphoma.

"We never asked 'Why us?'" Jerry recalls. "Rather, we asked, 'Why here? Why now?'"

The Songers were well aware of how many churches, when confronted with the drain of time and energy attendant to chronic illness, have found reason to ask the pastor to resign. Understandably, given their brief time at First Church, Roswell, they wondered if they, too, would be another statistic.

But First Church did not let that happen. "Our church has a long

history of caring," said deacon Curt Moore.

First Church stood alongside the Songers then and again when the cancer reoccurred, this time in the abdomen, five years later. But the church's biggest test has come during the last 18 months.

When there seemed to be no more hope, the Songers prayed that God would send someone or something to help. At that point, Jane's doctors suggested EPOC treatments which could be administered at Georgia Baptist Medical Center in Atlanta. Now, several months after those treatments began, Jane's doctors have said she shows "remarkable improvement."

Trying to be pastor of the 2,700-member congregation and husband to Jane hasn't been easy for Jerry. "Whichever place I was at a given moment, I thought I should be at the other."

But the church pulled through. They released Jerry to minister to Jane. Three times, First Church's personnel committee has given Jerry a unanimous vote of confidence. Once, the deacons gave their support in a 51-4 vote. Over and over, church members told

Jerry not to visit them, but to take care of Jane instead. In the six weeks Jane was in Maryland, church members spontaneously offered Jerry 18 plane tickets to use for his weekly trips.

Church staff and laypersons covered Jerry's ministerial responsibilities. And, in what may be surprising to some, the church has grown during this time. First Church received 175 new members during the 1992-93 church year. Another upswing in growth has come in the last five months with the addition of 70 new members.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jane has since returned to GBMC for another week of treatment, but is home now.

Martin is former editor, *THE NEW ENGLAND BAPTIST*, newsjournal for the Baptist Convention of New England. Currently, she lives in Woodstock and is a member of North River Church, Roswell, Ga.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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XA UA WHOK LWPEAJP; OPWXHEOD UKQN
DAWNPO: BKN PDA YKIEJC KB PDA HKNZ ZNWS-
APD JECD.

FWIAO BERA: AECDP

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Nine: Thirty-One.

Baptist Record

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